St. Pier Giorgio Frassati

Feast Day: July 4th

Patron Saint of Students, Young Catholics and Mountaineers

St. Pier Giorgio Frassati was born on April 6, 1901, in Turin, Italy, into a well-to-do family. Although his father was agnostic, Pier Giorgio's faith grew strong from a young age. He joined the Marian Sodality and the Apostleship of Prayer and began receiving Communion daily, which was uncommon at the time.

He attended Jesuit schools and later studied mining engineering at the Polytechnic of Turin—not for personal ambition, but so he could work alongside miners and bring Christ to them in their daily lives. Pier Giorgio was known for his energy, humor, and love of the outdoors. He was an avid mountain climber, swimmer, and skier, and he loved reciting Dante and sharing laughter with friends.

Pier Giorgio's faith was active and concrete. He volunteered with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and Catholic Action, dedicating much of his free time to serving the poor, the sick, and those on the margins. He often gave away his money, clothes, and even shoes to those who had none.

In 1922, he became a member of the Dominican Third Order, deepening his prayer life and commitment to service. In June 1925, he contracted polio, likely from caring for the sick. Even as his health declined, he stayed joyful and offered his suffering to God. Pier Giorgio died on July 4, 1925, at just 24 years old.

The Church opened his cause for sainthood in 1932, and he was beatified by Pope John

Did You Know?

Pier Giorgio loved mountain climbing so much that his friends called him Verso l'Alt, "to the heights," which has become a symbol of striving for holiness.

Pier Giorgio secretly paid rent and bought medicine for poor families.

Paul II on May 20, 1990, who called him the “Man of the Beatitudes” for living the Gospel so fully. He was canonized a saint on September 7, 2025 by Pope Leo XIV. Today, St. Pier Giorgio Frassati is venerated as a patron of young people, students, and all who strive to live their faith with joy, courage, and a heart for the poor.

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